

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 have been amended, and new Claims 11-14 have been added.

In response to the Communication dated August 16, 2004, Applicants are resubmitting this Supplemental Amendment to address the issues mentioned therein. It is submitted that the Supplemental Amendment is now in proper format.

As an initial matter, the Examiner did not consider the non-English documents submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement. To resolve this issue, Applicant is now providing translations of the foreign search reports, indicating the degree of relevance of the appropriate references. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to return the PTO-1449 form to the undersigned. Applicant also notes that the references cited in the specification have also been made of record.

The Examiner objects to the drawings for failing to show features of the method. However, with regard to method claims, the steps are not required to be shown in drawings. Only structural details need be shown. See, e.g., MPEP 608.02(d). Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

With regard to the objections indicated in paragraphs 2, 3, 6 and 7, Applicant has provided amendments to overcome these objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections indicated in paragraphs 2, 3, 6, and 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. As a result, the Applicant has amended the claims to remove the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. However, with respect to the

Examiner's position that reference to the FMEA and FMECA tables are indefinite, Applicant submits that the claims are read in light of the specification. As such, the FMEA and FMECA tables are adequately described therein.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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